

# India's Freedom Struggle and Role of Students: A Case Study of Medinipur District

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**Abstract:** *The significant contribution made by the students not only in the formation of the nation but also in gaining the independence of the country can be well estimated by looking at the students of Midnapur during the struggle for freedom. During first half of the 20th century the number of male -students was not supposed to be very large and female-students were nominal in the district but they actively participated in the freedom movements in India especially in anti-partition movement, Swadeshi Movement, non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and quit India movement. History speaks their glorious anti British struggle which they fought both in violent and non-violent ways. The glorious contribution of the students in India's long – awaited freedom movement is discussed in history, but the role of many students who dedicated their lives to the service of the country in the regional field is still unknown. The purpose of this article is to accurately highlight the role of many of these freedom fighters who dedicated their lives leaving their study for their motherland.*

**Keywords:** student, contribution, freedom, regional, field

## I. INTRODUCTION

The undivided Midnapur district of Burdwan division, located in the southwestern tip of West Bengal, has a geographical area of 13, 740 square kilometers and was geographically gets its today's shape in 1872.(Maity,2015, p.1) We specifically say that students are the future of the nation. The significant contribution made by those students not only in the formation of the nation but also in gaining the independence of the country. It can be well estimated by looking at the students of Midnapur during the struggle for freedom. Although anti British protests and rebellions were seen more or less everywhere in India from the beginning of British rule and the great revolt of 1857 strongly shook the colonial empire, the violent and non-violent *satyagraha* of Indians in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century starting from the anti-partition movement of Bengal to the Quit India movement, can be considered as more organised liberation struggle of the country. During this period the numbers of schools and colleges seen in Midnapore was very less. Up to 1905 there was only one college in the district named Midnapore College (established in1873) and seven to eight high schools and twenty to twenty five Middle English and Middle vernacular schools. Another college named Contai Prabhat Kumar College (established in 1926) and about 40 high schools and 100 middle standard schools were established in Medinipur district from 1905 C.E to 1942 C.E. Naturally the number of male -students was not supposed to be very large and female-students were nominal. (Das, 2021, p.63) In spite of this the students of Midnapur actively participated in the freedom movements in India especially in anti-partition movement and Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and quit India movement. History speaks their glorious anti British struggle which they fought both in violent and non-violentways.

### Objectives:

The glorious contribution of the students in India's long – awaited freedom movement is discussed in history, but the role of many students who dedicated their lives to the service of the country, not properly mentioned everywhere. The purpose of this article is to present the contribution of these freedom fighters of Midnapur district who were took part in India's freedom struggle leaving their study in school or colleges.

## II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

During the renaissance period in 19th century in Bengal a strong feeling of nationhood and nationalism had come following the way shown by Rammohon Roy, Shri Ramkrishna, Vidyasagar, Vivekenanda, Swami Dayananda Saraswati etc., through the impact of oriental and western education, religious and social reform, and glorification of Nation. As a result a number of associations had been emerged one by one within the British misrule and exploitation. All these free-thinking tendencies inspired the formation of revolutionary societies like the British India Society, *Sadhana Jnanapurjika Sabha*, British India Association, etc., which arose in Calcutta and spread to Medinipur through various ways and inspired the people of the district to patriotism and social service. Rajnarayan Bose, leader of Brahma Samaj, known as the grandfather of nationalism, was the head master of Midnapur District School (Today's Midnapur collegiate school) from 1851-1866 C.E. He left an outstanding contribution in the education, culture and political life of the people of the district. Indian Association was established in Calcutta in 1876 at the initiative of *Rashtra Guru* Surendranath and Barrister Anandamohan Basu. This Association was established with the aim of building strong public opinion based on the aspiration of the countrymen, uniting the various communities and mobilizing the masses in the national movement. In the first year of its establishment Midnapur branch of Indian Association was established in Contai. Its main initiator was Nagendranath Chattopadhyay, a prominent preacher of Brahma Samaj. Gradually 29 branches of the said Associations were established in this district at Midnapur, Ghatal, Tamluk, Chandrakona, Mahisadal, Mugberia, Marishda, Chandiveti, Sujamutha, Beta etc. People like Taraknath Ghosh, Bhagwan Chandra Goswami were participated as the workers of Bharat Sabha in the sub division towns and rural areas of the district. A night school was established in Garbeta. Representatives of this district also attend the National Conference of the Bharat Sabha. National Congress was born in 1885 on the ideology of Bharat Sabha. Many personalities of the district joined it. In 1901, a session of the Bengal Provincial Congress was held at *porabangla maidan* in Midnapur city. Journalist Narendra Sen was the president. (Das, 2020, pp.28-30) With the establishment of the Indian National Congress, Midnapur gained its influence, but it remained under the influence of the educated middle class of the district until the movement of partition of Bengal in 1905 C.E. Medinipur's influence in the main stream of National Politics has been seen since the Provincial Congress Session was held in this district in 1901 through the efforts of moderate leaders Yogesh Chandra Roy, Kartik Chandra Mitra and Bipin Bihari Dutt. (Das and Roy, Vol.I, 1989,p.238)

There were three main genre of militant nationalism in Medinipur. The first genre started on the context of anti partition movement of Bengal which is familiar with the age of Khudiram. During this period a number of revolutionary secret societies were formed. In 1902 there were four such societies in Bengal, one of which was at Midnapur. But before 1905 the secret societies did not really play any significant role other than recruiting and training members. Frustrated by the early revolutionary efforts, Hemachandra Kanungo of Midnapur traveled to Europe in August 1906 to receive advanced terrorist training. He returned from there in January 1908 with a 174 page book on bomb making and 150 page book on revolutionary organization. But after the execution of Khudiram and the annulment of partition of Bengal, terrorist activities virtually ceased to exist. The period of the second and third phases of the triad of nationalist movements is usually dated to the 1930s and 1940s. (Das and Roy, Vol.I., 1989, pp.239-240) Birendranath Shasmal was the notable leader of Medinipur in this phase. In the background of the non-cooperation movement, the movement that started all over India was strengthened in Midnapur by resisting the union board. In the political history of Modern India, this movement to resist the union board led by Birendranath Shasmal of Medinipur District was the first successful satyagraha. (Mondal,2012, p.20) During the Civil Disobedience Movement, the terrorist movement also resumed in this district as Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar Dal opened branches in Midnapur. In 1928, Dinesh Gupta (a member of secret revolutionary organization called Dhaka MuktiSangh) was admitted to Medinipur College and tried to revive the *guptasamiti* in Midnapur. The secret organization headed by Hemchandra Ghosh is known as B.V, named after Subhas Chandra Bose's Bengal Volunteers at the Calcutta sessions of the National Congress in 1928. In July 1929, Dinesh Gupta left Medinipur and went to Dhaka. Shasnka Dasgupta Came Medinipur and took charge of the Party. Three district magistrates of Midnapur, Peddie, Douglas and Burge, were killed in this period by the terrorist activities. Until the beginning of World War II, the Burze massacre was thought to be the last successful attempt by the terrorist movement in all over Bengal. Thus the terrorist movement of Midnapur came to an end. (Das and Roy, Vol.I., 1989, pp.239-261) The said three phases of Revolutionary activities of the district were glorified with the active participation of the students who left their study for the sake of the motherland.

We find the student movement in India and Bengal in the Young Bengal era mainly in the efforts of some students of Hindu Colleges who followed Derozio. But student movement in Midnapur district started from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century specially centralizing the anti partition movement in Bengal. (Bhowmik, 1999, p.94) Tremendous protest was seen in Midnapur like all over Bengal just after forecasting the decision of the partition of Bengal in the newspapers on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1905 C.E. Students of the district showed their discontent like the other sections of people of the society against the declaration. An exciting gathering of thousands of students held at District Hall of Midnapore like the Town Hall of Kolkata raised their voice against the said partition. A long procession of youths and the students rounded the town with bare foot and took oath not to use coat, umbrella and shoes. (Das, 2021, pp.64-65) They used the cordial relation of both the Hindu and the Muslims in the promulgation of *swadeshi* during Id festival of the Muslims. In those days in Id a festival and a big rally used to held in every year along with some educated people. The students used to inspire them with nationalism through delivering lecture and singing national song in unison from five different centers. The similar rallies were held not only in Midnapur city but in Khirpai, Dantan, Panchrol, Ghatal, Mahisadal, Contai, Mirgoda, Byabortar Hat etc. also. On October 16, the students of Medinipur, regardless of caste and religion, bathed in the river Kangsawati together and hugged together by tying rakhis. (Bhowmik, 1999, p.95)

The protest held both in violent and non-violent ways. During the movements of anti-partition of Bengal and *swadeshi* movement, NikunjaBihariMaity of Bhagwanpur, students of the then Hamilton High school of Tamluk such as Jadugopal Mukhopadhyay, Ganesh Chandra Das, Purna Chandra Sen, Surendranath Rakshit, Jogjiban Ghosh etc., and Basantakumar Sarkar of Garbeta were participated at the stake of their lives. (Das, 2021, pp.64-65)

During this period one of the most striking figures in the liberation of Indian struggle for freedom was **Khudiram Bose** (3 December 1889 – 11 August 1908) of Tamluk. He was the first martyr of Bengal. Mohboni of Keshpur was his fatherland. His father was Trailokyanath and mother was LakshmiPriya Devi. But Trailokyanath, Tahshildar of Narazole Raj Estate, used to live Habibpur named area of Midnapore city. Losing mother in childhood Khudiram was brought up by his elder sister Aparupa whose husband Amritlal worked at Tamluk as a result Khudiram was studied at Tamluk Hamilton School at first and District School thereafter. But he left his study in class eight and his sister's home as well due to a deep feeling of the intolerable sufferings of bondage of the motherland. He spent few days at *Chhendapathar* area and then joined revolutionary activities which brought him under the arena of *Medinipur gupit Samiti* where he was initiated in the chants of revolution by Satyendranath Bose. Landlord's house of Mugberia and different revolutionary *akhras* (teaching centers) of the district were his mobile address then. In those days all revolutionary secret associations were associated with political robbery due to collection of arms. Once Khudiram went to his elder sisters house situated at Hatgachhia and robed Government post office there and came back to Kolkata on that night without informing anyone. In 1906 C.E Khudiram got involved in a case in agriculture and industrial exhibition organized in the old prison premises of Midnapur by Government initiative. During this phase of *Swadeshi* Movement, the revolutionaries took this fair as a field of promoting patriotism. Khudiram was entrusted with the task of distributing some revolutionary pamphlets. These were probably *Bandematram*, *Sonar Bangla*, *No Compromise* named handbills. When a policeman came to arrest Khudiram while handing out leaflets, he punched him on the nose. Khudiram was released as Satyendranath, assistant secretary and vice-captain of the district, made a trick and told that Khudiram is a son of *Deputibabu*. However, the mistake was caught and an arrest warrant was issued against Khudiram. A few days later he was caught and produced before a joint magistrate. He was later excused by the Sessions Judge, Mr. Randsome, on account of his young age. In 1907, the extremist movement spread in different parts of the country. Prafulla Chaki, a member of the *gupasamiti* of Kolkata, and Khudiram Bose of Medinipur were given responsibility to kill the tyrant Kingsford. One day in the first week of April 1908, the two revolutionaries came to Muzaffarpur, staying first in a dharamshala and then separately in a dharamshala and a Bengali mess, they observed Kingsford's Bungalow and his movements. On April 30, the night of the New Moon, Kingsford entered into the Club in the evening. At about 8.30 p.m, a horse carriage left the club. When the car came near, Khudiram threw a bomb made by *astraguru* Hemchandra inside the car. But even if the bomb explodes, Kingsford was saved. Because there was Mrs. and Miss Kenedy, the wife and daughter of a white lawyer, in the car. After throwing the bomb Khudiram ran towards Samastipur and Prafulla Chaki towards Bankipur in joy of success. Next day in the morning Khudiram was caught in the Owasi station. On the other hand Prafulla Chaki suicide by shooting himself from his own pistol. Thereafter police filed a case on charged with murder of Mrs. and Miss. Kenedy. To provide legal aid some leaders came forward for the

victim. Afterwards three pleaders from Rangpur also came. But no pleaders from Kolkata or Midnapur came for Khudiram. In this context angry Hemchandra told later that this is also a glory of Bengali character. Khudiram gave two types of confession on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of his arrest i.e on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> May to the two different Magistrates. But in both cases he confessed that it was he who threw the bomb on the car and his purpose was to kill Kingsford. The trial continued on and from 8<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> June in the court of Mr. Cornduff, the extra *daira* judge. There were number of witness from the Government side. There were no witness to the bomb being thrown by Khudiram but the witness told that he had seen Khudiram to throw the bomb in spite of darkness. This witness was accepted in the court. On the basis of these witnesses and in agreement with the Assessors the judge ordered to hang Khudiram till death for offence of murder. Khudiram hanged till death on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1908 C.E Tuesday at 6 am. On the initiative of lawyer Kalidas Bose, the cremation of the heroic martyrs was completed on the banks of the Gandak River. (Das, 2020, pp.44-46) Khudiram was a frontline soldier of Midnapur's Boycott and Swadeshi movement. His and other revolutionaries' self sacrifice at the altar of freedom movement immensely inspired the student society. (Bhowmik, 1999, p.95) Another patriot of this period was **Purna Chandra Sen**, son of Chandipur village of Ghatal Police Station joined Midnapur Gupta Samiti in 1904 when he was studying in Midnapur College. Later he led the revolutionary activities of Midnapur and worked along with Khudiram Bose. He was arrested at Muraripukur in Kolkata along with Barin Ghosh and other revolutionaries on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1908 and imprisoned at Alipur Central Jail. After getting release from there he became an active member of Yugantar Party. During the special Assembly of National Congress held in East Bengal on the month of September in 1920, he was the travelling companion of deshbandhu C. R. Das. He supported Non-cooperation Movement of M.K.Gandhi along with C.R.Das in 1920 in Nagpur Congress and also participated in it. Purnachandra took up a serious responsibility for proper coverage of Gandhiji's movement and congress activities and gradually developed into a professional journalist. (Roy, 2010, pp.184-185)

On the eve of Non Cooperation movement Bipin Chandra Paul asked to the teachers and Students that education may wait but swaraj can't. With such address to the leaders groups of students came out from the schools and colleges. The number of students of Panchet High School of Midnapur district decreased in that way that the grant of the school was cancelled. (Das,2020,p.52) During non-cooperation movement Santosh Kumar Singh of Contai leaving study in the college went to prepare salt at Pichhabani along with the revolutionaries. There he was tortured by the police and imprisoned for six months. Thereafter as a dedicated revolutionary he played a great role in the 1930's salt satyagraha, chowkidari tax movement, boycott of foreign goods and drugs etc. During Quit India movement he along with two brothers participated in the movement wholeheartedly. (Mishra, 2014, p.373) **Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee** (15 April 1901 – 27 May 1986) who served three short terms as the fourth and sixth Chief Minister of West Bengal, was a son of Tamruk, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal. In 1921, he joined the non-cooperation movement without sitting in the chemistry honours examination at Presidency College. Following the trends of non-cooperation movement, Dandi march and conduct of the formation of Tamralipta National Government of 1942 were implemented according to his plan. He was the second highest leader of the said government. He imprisoned on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1943 and released from there after independence. Like him **Satish Chandra Samanta** who became the Member of Parliament in free India for a long time also joined in the non-cooperation movement leaving study in Bengal Technical Institute of Shibpur. Giving positive response in Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement and joining in picketing he imprisoned for six months. He joined himself in the village development of the Nimtauri region adjacent to Tamruk as the effort of *deshbandhu Palli Unnayan Samiti* in 1924. Thereafter he imprisoned for few months for engaging himself in Satyagraha in the salt produce center of Narghat. Besides he imprisoned for one year also for joining in the civil disobedience at Goalberia Village of Mahiashadal during Second World War. Thereafter he was appointed as captain (foreign sector) in the Tamralipta National Government during Quit India movement. **Balailal Das Mahapatra** of Ramnagar was also a striking revolutionary character. He was born at Lalpur Village of Ramnagar P.S on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1904. His father name was Biharilal and mother was Suhashini Debi. After the completion of primary education from village *pathshala* Balailal admitted in Mid English School at Balighai and in Contai National School thereafter. During this period he came in contact with great leaders like Deshpran Birendranath Shasmal, Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Prafulla Chandra etc. He was initiated in service for the nation and struggle for freedom by them. In 1924 he was participated in Tarakeshwar Satyagraha with the leadership of deshbandhu C. R. Das and imprisoned for three months. In 1925 he passed Matriculation Examination from National School and admitted Bihar Vidyapith.

Here he became close to Dr. Rajendra Prasad and awarded with Graduation degree. Besides he joined as trained teacher in National Service team and in Kumilla Abhoy Ashram thereafter. During the time of salt satyagraha (1930-31) he lead the said movement in Patna, Mujafforpur and Dwarbhanga of Bihar. He was arrested in 1933 at Sonamukhi of Bankura during no tax to government movement in 1932 and imprisoned for six months. Another Gandhian revolutionary and extraordinary organizer of that period was **Basanta Kumar Das** son of Indranarayan and Sudharani Debi of Ramchak village of Khejuri P.S. He was arrested and confined his own house in charge of his connection with the revolutionary Party when he was studying B.Sc in Presidency College. He joined in the non-cooperation movement of Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 and played a vital role by teaching in the National School of Contai established by *deshpran* Birendranath Sasmal and spreading the ideals of Swadeshi. He played a great role in salt satyagrah in 1930 also for which he was arrested and imprisoned. He was released after Gandhi-Arwin pact. In 1932 again he was arrested and imprisoned for one year for arranging public gatherings at Ajanbari market of Khejuri during the second phase of civil disobedience movement violating the Government order. He was again arrested and imprisoned for three year during quit India Movement. (Roy, 2010, pp.206-218). **Dhananjay Kar** of Nayabasan Village of Jhargram admitted in Midnapur College. During Noncooperation Movement he engaged himself in the armed revolutionary activities in Midnapur. He became the member of Anushilan Samiti and Hindusthan Republican Army. His name was involved in the murder of three district majistrate of Midnapur, Burge, Doughlas and Pedi. Due to this he was arrested by the Police and imprisoned in the Midnapur, Buxar and Baharampur Jail from September, 1933 to August 1938. But he was released unconditionally on 23 August 1938 as the charges against him were not proved. (De, 2016, pp.112-113) **Raghunath Maity**, son of Rammohon Maity and Sushila Debi of Manikjore village in Bhagwanpur Police Station was associated with satyagrah of noncooperation movement when he was a student of Bangabasi College in the Department of Science. He was arrested and imprisoned in Midnapur Central Jail for four months on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1930 due to participation in Salt Satyagrah. He was arrested again and imprisoned in Hijli Jail in time of the Second Phase of Civil Disobedience Movement. He released therefrom in 1934 and engaged himself in practice of Ayurveda due to his illness and later he established Ayurveda Sevak Samstha and Ayurveda College in Contai. **Trailokyanath Pradhan** of Teghari Village in Ramnagar Police Station participated in Noncooperation Movement leaving his study from Contai High School. He was arrested and imprisoned for participation in Salt Satyagraha in 1930. He was also a participant in Quit India Movement. In 1945 when Mahatma Gandhi set foot on Contai he was one of the well organizers in that programme. **Kangalchand Giri** of Barchunpara village in Contai Police Station was inspired by the revolutionary ideas during his student life. In 1913 he engaged himself in social service in his own village leaving study from city college of Calcutta. He played a great role in noncooperation, civil disobedience and Quit India movement. **Satish Chandra Jana** of Sankhapai (Banamachatta) village joined noncooperation movement along with Bijoykrishna Maity, Bhuteswar Paria, Kangalchand Giri etc. in the call of Mahatma Gandhi when he was a student of Presidency College. He actively participated in noncooperation and civil disobedience movement. During Civil disobedience movement he was arrested and imprisoned for six month and fined with Rs.300 or imprison for one and half month extra in lieu of the fine. Subhas Chandra Basu the then President of Indian National Congress came to Contai on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1938. Satischandra was the president of this welcome committee. He was also active in the welcome ceremony of Mhatma Gandhi's coming in Contai in 1946. **Bhuteswar Paria** of Jamalpur Village in Contai Police Station joined non-cooperation movement leaving his study from Barhampur College in 1920 and engage himself in Contai National School as teacher. He played an active role in the Union Board Movement led by Birendranath Shasmal. During Salt satyagrah movement he was arrested and imprisoned for one year. He was participated in Quit India Movement also and took part an active role in the relief work in storm affected areas and their reconstruction. He was arrested in 1943 and imprisoned till the month of March in 1945. (Roy, 2010, pp.214-217) With them the name of Rash Bihari Pal of Contai High School, Nagendranath Maity of Dantan, Nagendranath Sen of Debra, Gopal Chandra Das Adhikary of Sabong, Ananga Mohan Das of Moyna, Kumar Chandra Jana of Sutahata, Ramani Mohan Maity of Mahishadal, Rakhil Chandra Maity of Egra, Sudhir Chandra Dash of Contai, Purnendu Sekhar Bhowmik of Khejuri, Shashisekhar Mandal of Patashpur, Trailokyanath Pradhan of Ramnagar, Dhirendranath Das of Bhagwanpur etc., are mentionable for their anti-British and constructive role in the non-cooperation movement. (Das,2021,pp.66-67)

The incidents after the withdrawal of non-cooperation movement such as peasant movement, strike in the rice and cotton mill, murder of Sandars, throwing of Bomb in the legislative Assembly by Bhagat Sing and Batukeshwar Datta,

demand of complete swaraj in the Kolkata's National Congress's Session, helped Gandhiji to think over the preparation of another mass movement. Under these circumstances complete swaraj and the proposal of civil disobedience were accepted in the session of Lahore Congress in 1929 C.E and Gandhiji was requested to take charge of it for implementation. Gandhiji declared the first and foremost steps of civil disobedience will be 'Salt Satyagraha'. (Das,2020,p.57.)

During civil disobedience and salt satyagraha movement, a number of students of Mugberia High school participated in the *pichhabanisatyagraha*. Students of Contai National school showed their valor and devotion to the country by actively participating in salt satyagraha. Besides, Pradyot Bhattacharya of Dashpur Police Station, Nabin Mahapatra of Panchrole, Bhupal Panda of Contai collage, Sushil Kumar Dhara of Mahishadal and many more students joined in the civil disobedience movement wholeheartedly. **Pradyot Bhattacharya** was born at Gokulnagar village of Dashpur Police Station of present day West Midnapur. He joined in the revolutionary party when he was studying in the 2nd year of College. Douglas, the then District Magistrate of Midnapur, was very tyrant. Pradyot Bhattacharya and Prabhanshu Paul were given responsibility for the murder of Douglas by the revolutionary party. Pradyot was caught in 1931 on account of the murder of Douglas and hanged to till death on 12th January, 1933 when he was only 20 years old. **Prabhanshu Pal**, son of Ashutosh Pal and Laxmimoni Debi of Khanjapur Village of Daspur Police Station in the sub division of Ghatal joined Bengal Volunteers during studying at Hindu School. In time of attack to Douglas while Pradyut's revolver became inactive prabhanshu's fired five bullets shot Douglas into his chest and he died in the spot. Though Pradyut was caught by the Police, Prabhanshu could able to flee from there by firing towards pursuers went out of their sights and removing his duplicate moustache washed mouth in the pond and later came back to Kolkata therefrom. Though he was arrested later and brought back to Midnapur but nobody identified him. As a result he became discharged without any hitch. Thereafter he was arrested on account of the killing of Burge, another tyrant District Magistrate of Midnapur and kept in detained from 1933 to 1938. (Roy, 2010, pp.165-166) **Haripada Bhowmik** of Balarampur Village of Sabang P.S was initiated in the love for the motherland during his study in the Midnapur Town School by the inspiration of Ishwar Chandra Chakraborty, Head Teacher of the school and Amulya Kumar Nandi, Teacher of the said institution. He was the direct disciple of the great revolutionary martyr Dinesh Chandra Gupta. Five adolescent revolutionaries along with Haripada Bhowmik who were initiated in the revolution at the midnight in a desolate *padmabatighat* of the river Kansai taking *khanra* of goddess Kali in one hand and Gita, the holy text of the Hindus, in another hand by the great revolutionary Dinesh Chandra Gupta in 1927. He was one of the in charges of making contact with Bengal Volunteers of Kolkata Branch during 1928 to 1930 C.E. In 1928 he was sent to Contai as 'man of the spot' giving responsibility of increasing revolutionary consciousness and conducting its activities there. He conducted the revolutionary activities along with the members of B.V of Contai unit during his study in Contai P. K. College. He was to leave this college for involvement in the planning of the killing of Abdul Gaffar, the tyrant Subdivisional officer of Contai and Shyamsudduha, the police personal of Contai by the pressure of the Government over the college authority. To avoid arrest he had to flee from Contai and thereafter he stayed in different places of Kolkata, Baranagar, Panihati etc. as home tutor in different pseudonym. Both Pradyot Bhattacharya and Prabhanshu Pal took shelter for few days in the mess of Haripada Bhowmik before the murder of Douglas, the oppressor district magistrate. Haripada was imprisoned for twelve years as an accused for killing the three district magistrates. (Roy, 2010, pp. 240-41) **Anathbondhu Panja**, son of Surendranath Panja of Jalabindu Village of Sabang P.S joined Bengal Volunteers when he was studying at Hindu School. Thereafter he was admitted into Medinipur Collegiate School for the benefit of the revolutionary organization. District magistrate Burge was shot dead on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1933 on the Police Play Ground by Anathbondhu and Mrigen Datta. It was Anathbondhu who shot the magistrate at first. In reverse he was also shot dead by the body guards of the magistrate. **Kamakhya Ghosh** of Medinipur Town came close to Prabhanshu Pal of Bengal Volunteers when he was a student of Hindu School in Midnapur. He was arrested in charge of the murder of Burge when he was the student of 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Midnapur College. He was imprisoned for six months under trial and thereafter sent to Andaman jail as prisoner for whole life on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1934. **Mrigendranath Datta** of Paharipur of Midnapur Town became one of the important member of B.V when he was a student of Midnapur Town School. During his study in Midnapur College being associated with Anathbondhu Panja he shot dead to Burge, the district magistrate of Midnapur at the Police playground. Bugre's bodyguards shot Mrigen and he was admitted to Midnapur Hospital with injuries. Mr. Kitt, one of the Police Officer of

Midnapur, returning from Khargapur at night went straight to Midnapur Hospital and plagued Mrigen with questions. Mrigen shouts and abuses Mr. Kitt. Kitt then kicked Mrigen in the chest and the wounded Mrigen died (3rd September, 1933). (Roy, 2010, pp.203-204) **Harishchandra Nanda**, son of Rameshchandra and Rama Debi, of Maitna Village of Ramnagar P.S in Contai Sub Division devoted himself for the sake of motherland when he was a student of class X. He was a loyal disciple of Jiban Krishna Chakraborty, the captain of National Liberation volunteer force as well as well-known leader of *samarparishad* of Egra P.S. Harishchandra regularly practiced general exercise, yoga, stick fighting, fighting with sword and spear, wrestling, drill, parade etc., under the guidance of Jiban Krishna in a field adjacent to the temple of lord Shiba prepared by Haripriya, the queen of Basudebpur. The main object of this practice was to prepare the soldiers for fight for independence and rise of Nationalism. At that time an adventure of Harishchandra came to be known. Prasanna Kumar Maity who was the President of No. 5<sup>th</sup> Union Board of Egra P.S and spy of British Government was punched at his nose by Harishchandra and fell down on the soil at bloody condition. As a result he was caught by the police and tortured inhumanly. During quit India Movement of 1942 when a revolutionary activity was going on under his active leadership he fell on clash with the police in front of Egra P.S. He was tortured brutally by the police and transferred to Contai Sub divisional Jail. He was released after inhuman torture but fell ill within few days of being brought home and died on June 8, 1943 at the age of 19. (Roy, 2010, pp.203-204) **Sushil Kumar Dhara** was born on 2 March 1911 at Tikarampur in Nandakumar, present day East Midnapore district. His political activities started from his school days. He completed his education in 1937 from Vidyasagar College. Later, in 1940, he participated in Gandhiji's Satyagraha movement. He played a leading role in the anti-British movement in undivided Midnapore in August 1942. This movement helped free Tamralipta from British rule and an independent government was formed in the region on December 17, 1942. The Power Force of the Parallel Government of Tamluk was also directed by him. Sushil Kumar Dhara was imprisoned for 12 years and 4 months during the British regime. (indianetzone.com) of Jamalpur village in Contai P.S joined noncooperation movement leaving study from Baharampur College. Thereafter he was joined as teacher in the national school of Contai and engage himself in the Gandhiji's constructive programme such as spinning through charka, carpentry etc. He played active role in the Union Board Boycott Movement led by Birendranath Shasmal. He imprisoned for one year in the Barhampur Jail for participation in the salt satyagraha in 1930. After releasing from the jail he again joined in the National school as teacher. After the murder of Burge the National Schools declared illegal in 1933 and BhuteswarPariawas expelled from the district from 1933-1937. He served as the vice President of Contai Local Board in 1939. **Sudhir Chanra Das**, son of Kedar Chandra and Sarojini Devi of Darua village in contain joined noncooperation movement in 1921 C.E leaving study from Model School and admitted in Contai National School. During student life he participated in the cancellation of Unoin Board Movement led by Birendranath Shasmal. After completion of his education from National School in 1924 he actively participated in the movements for independence. Mohon Das Karam Chand Gandhi came to Contai in 1925 for the first time for addressing a historic gathering organized in the Daruamoidan where Sudhir Chandra Das was worked one of its major organizers. Next year in 1926 he introduced *Gandhi mela* in the said field which has been continuing till today by the effort of Janakalyan Sangha. During salt Satyagraha in 1930 he secretly distributed cyclostyle leaflets. For this he was arrested along with his father and imprisoned for six months. He was also arrested on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1933 during second phase of civil disobedience movement or non taxpaying movement and imprisoned for six months again. He was arrested again on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1942 during Quit India Movement and imprisoned for one and half years. (Roy, 2010, pp.217-218)

Students of the then Midnapur district played a glorious role in the Quit India Movement also. The actual beginning of the August Movement was on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942. On 11th August, students of Contai P. K. College, led by their G.S Subodh Gopal Guchhait, went on a strike and brought the College and Kanthi town to a standstill. The students' participation in the quit India movements crossed the records of the former movements held in Midnapur District. In this movement with the male students the name of a female student named Abha Maity of Khejuri make us proud for her contribution in the said movement. (Das, 2021, pp.69-70).

### III. CONCLUSION

The precedent set by the student society of Medinipur in the national movement by joining in the revolutionary activities leaving schools and colleges is a glorious aspect of the freedom movement not only of this district but of the

entire country. During various movements the Hindu-Muslim harmony of this district was spectacular in the context of the national movement of the country. But the cause of the premature end of the extremist terrorist movement in the district was rooted in the movement itself. The activities of the secret revolutionary societies were city-centered. The biographies of the terrorists suggest that they were not aware of the social leadership of the rich peasants. Nevertheless, the sacrifice of the young revolutionaries in the hope of liberating the motherland gave courage and inspiration to the next generation. It is evident from the above discussion how spontaneous the student participation of Midnapur district was under the guidance of national and regional level leadership in non cooperation, civil disobedience and quit India movement led by Indian National Congress in the form of Gandhiji's non-violent movement.

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